(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new medicine has been given a clinical trial and if so, with what results; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to permit sale of the medicine on a commercial scale, in order to provide relief to millions of bronchial asthma patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the poly-herbal formulation developed by Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata, a constituent unit of CSIR, has been licensed for commercial production. The product is being sold under the trade name of 'Asmon'. IICB studies have shown that the formulation blocks both the leukotriene and lymphokine pathways which cause or contribute to bronchial asthama.

(c) The licensee for the formulation carried out trials as per Ayurvedic procedures.

(d) The formulation was licensed for commercial production in September, 2000 and the licensee is already into commercial production.

US tactics against Indian Steel Exporters

2108. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US administration's tactics to provide protection to the US steel industry have caused trade disputes and portests by exporters;

(b) whether the Indian steel delegation to Washington told the US administration that Indian exporters would be greatly affected due to this;

(c) if so, the main points discussed with the US administration;

(d) to what extent the US administration has agreed to look into the complaints of Indian steel exporters;

(e) whether Government have also taken up this issue with the US Government; and

(f) if so, what is the reaction of the US Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) On the request of CII, a delegation led by Secretary (Steel) visited USA in July-August, 2001 to take up with US Administration issues which, *inter*

alia, include Suspension Agreement on HR coils, Safeguard Action initiated by US Administration under Section 201 of the US Trade Act and initiative pertaining to the Multilateral Steel Agreement proposed by the US Administration.

The delegation held wide ranging discussions with a large number of policy makers, Congressmen, US Department of Commerce, US Trade Representative etc. and was able to project its major areas of concern and also gain an insight into the likely trend of US trade policy with regard to steel. However, the negotiation could not be concluded successfully with regard to the Suspension Agreement on HR coils which was not accepted by the US Administration. There was some understanding, particularly with regard to recent exporters not being excluded from the Market in the event of a quota regime consequent to the remedy phase of Section 201 investigations. The US Administration pointed out that procedure and proof requirement for safeguard action under Section 201 were very stringent and such action would have to withstand very close scrutiny with regard to its justification. The US Administration further indicated that they would be moving towards discussions amongst steel produces as well as amongst governments of important steel producing countries including India, to evolve some solution towards balancing of global supply and demand and orderly conduct of trade in steel.

Production of Iron Ore in A.P.

2109. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the share of Andhra Pradesh in the production of iron ore in the country;

(b) how much iron ore was produced in the State during the last three years, yearwise;

(c) who were the end users of this iron ore; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the production of iron ore in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) The share of Andhra Pradesh in the production of iron ore in the country during the year 2000-01 was about 0.5%.